

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 619  
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to direct a special actuarial study and analysis of the funding of the TennCare program, capitation rates paid to managed care organizations, including behavioral health organizations, the portion of capitated rates paid to providers and payments made to providers as compared to other health care programs.

WHEREAS, the TennCare program is the largest program of state government and accounts for over twenty-four percent (24%) of the state's budget in fiscal year 1998; and,

WHEREAS, well over one million Tennesseans depend on the TennCare program as their essential link to quality health care and mental health care services; and,

WHEREAS, the General Assembly and the State of Tennessee cannot adequately fulfill their constitutional duty to appropriate adequate state funds to, and provide oversight of, the TennCare program without objective and sufficient knowledge of the actuarially determined adequacy of TennCare funding; and

WHEREAS, the state has had no independent, professional actuarial analysis of the adequacy of funding of the TennCare program since at least 1993; and

WHEREAS, the public, TennCare recipients, managed care organizations, health care providers and the State of Tennessee must be assured of the sound financing of the TennCare program to ensure its future success and ability to provide effective health care services to Tennesseans; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Comptroller of the Treasury is directed to undertake a study of the funding of the state's TennCare program. The study shall assess the adequacy of total funding for the TennCare program, the actuarial soundness and adequacy of capitation rates paid to managed care organizations, including behavioral health organizations, the portion of capitated rates paid to providers, payments made to providers as compared to other health care programs, and specific ways the determination of TennCare program funding, capitation rates and provider payments could be improved. The study shall also include an analysis of TennCare benefits, eligibility and premiums.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the study shall also evaluate the Bureau of TennCare's capability to provide requested financial, enrollment, or any other information in a timely manner to the General Assembly, including requests made by the Oversight Committee on TennCare, the Fiscal Review Committee and the Office of Legislative Budget Analysis. The study shall make specific recommendations on how to expedite the compilation and transmission of complete, accurate data to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Health, the Bureau of TennCare, and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall cooperate in this endeavor by providing any requested information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the results of the study shall be presented by the Comptroller to the TennCare Oversight Committee and the Finance, Ways and Means Committees of the Senate and House not later than March 15, 1999.